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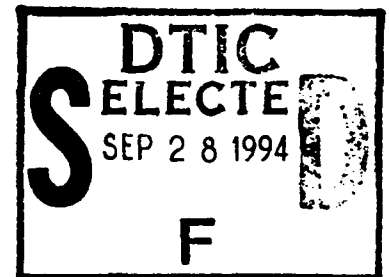
**ELECTROCHEMICAL INTERFACES AND ELECTRODE PROCESSES:  
ELECTROCHEMICAL OXIDATION OF SMALL ORGANISMS**

**by**

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**September 1, 1994**



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| 13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)<br>This report summarizes research involving mechanistic studies of the oxidation of small hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide on platinum in aqueous electrolytes, transition metal oxides as electrocatalysts for O <sub>2</sub> reduction and as supports for dispersed platinum, and transition metal complexes exhibiting high catalytic activity for O <sub>2</sub> reduction on graphite. This research has been pursued principally by graduate students, using the research for the Ph.D. dissertation. |  |   |                                    |   |  |
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## FINAL REPORT

### I. Summary of Research

#### A. Objectives of Contract Research

The overall objective of this ONR contract research has been to understand the factors controlling the activity of various electrocatalysts and to use this information as a guide to new catalysts and optimization of presently available catalysts. This research has involved the following areas:

- mechanistic studies of the oxidation of small hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide on platinum in aqueous electrolytes
- transition metal oxides as electrocatalysts for O<sub>2</sub> reduction and as supports for dispersed platinum
- transition metal complexes exhibiting high catalytic activity for O<sub>2</sub> reduction on graphite

This research has been pursued principally by graduate students, using the research for the Ph.D. dissertation.

#### B. Research Approach and Scientific Conclusions

##### 1. Electrochemical oxidation of small organic molecules: ethane and ethylene

The oxidation of ethane and ethylene has been examined using linear potential sweep and potential step methods with single crystal platinum as well as polycrystalline platinum surfaces at temperatures up to 150°C. The electrode kinetics have been compared with methane and other small hydrocarbons in acid media. The formation of strongly adsorbed CO has been observed in all cases. Fourier Transform Infrared Reflectance (FTIR) studies in a thin-layer external

reflectance cell indicate that the linearly adsorbed CO(ads) is the predominant form on single crystal Pt surfaces for hydrocarbons (methane, ethane, ethylene) as well as alcohols (methanol, ethanol). Bridge bonded CO(ads) is also observed in some instances with FTIR.

The adsorbed CO is very strongly adsorbed on the platinum surface and blocks the catalytic sites needed for the earlier stages of the electrode reaction. This adsorbed CO can be oxidatively desorbed at quite anodic potentials but this is not attractive for fuel cell systems operating on ethane and other small organisms since the cell voltage would be low. This research has demonstrated, however, that this problem is substantially lessened at higher temperatures ( $>150^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The use of platinum alloy catalysts (*e.g.*, Pt with Ru, Sn, Mo) results in even faster kinetics. Pronounced structural sensitivity has been observed on the three low index planes. The activity of these surfaces for the oxidation of all the small organic molecules examined ranked in the order  $\text{Pt}(100) > \text{Pt}(111) > \text{Pt}(110)$ .

## **2. Electrochemical and infrared properties of CO on platinum**

The electrochemical oxidation of CO and reduction of  $\text{CO}_2$  have been studied using *in situ* FTIR spectroscopic and electrochemical techniques on single crystal platinum electrodes. The catalytic activity of the low index Pt surfaces for both CO oxidation and  $\text{CO}_2$  reduction decreased in following order:  $(100) > (110) > (111)$ . On Pt(110), the only detectable reduction product of  $\text{CO}_2$  was adsorbed CO in linear form on the Pt(110) and (111) surfaces and simultaneously in both the linear and bridge bound forms on Pt(100). The oxidation of the reduction product (*i.e.*, adsorbed CO) indicated similar oxidation peak features in the voltammetry curves to those of the oxidation of CO (from the electrolyte) on those single crystal surfaces. The presence of strongly adsorbed anions such as bisulfate anions or chlorides either gives rise to the steric hindrance,

impeding attack by oxygen donors or inhibits the formation of Pt surface hydroxide, resulting in the retardation of the CO oxidation peaks.

The very sharp CO oxidation voltammetry peaks are interpreted as due to the coupling of two surface processes, *i.e.*, oxidative desorption of CO coupled to anionic adsorption (*e.g.*,  $\text{Cl}^-$ ,  $\text{HSO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$ ,  $\text{OH}^-$ ). Based on the number of electrons transferred during the electrochemical process, reaction mechanisms for oxidation of adsorbed CO and solution phase CO have been proposed.

### **3. The use of electronic conducting oxides as catalysts and catalyst supports for $\text{O}_2$ reduction**

Lithiated nickel oxide [(Li)NiO] is not active as an electrocatalysts for  $\text{O}_2$  reduction in acid aqueous solutions. In alkaline solutions, the oxide exhibits some activity for  $\text{O}_2$  reduction but the reaction proceeds by a two-electron reduction to peroxide. At elevated temperatures, however, this oxide becomes surprisingly active, yielding close to 4-electrons per  $\text{O}_2$  at  $200^\circ\text{C}$  in concentrated KOH with little activation overpotential. With platinum catalysts supported on mosaic (Li)NiO crystals, the electrochemical reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  is inhibited at room temperature because of the p-type semiconductor properties of the (Li)NiO. At elevated temperatures ( $\sim 150^\circ\text{C}$ ), however, this oxide in powdered high area form does show promise as a support for Pt. Above  $150^\circ\text{C}$ , (Li)NiO itself catalyzes the  $\text{O}_2$  reduction in concentrated KOH and the contribution of the supported dispersed Pt is relatively small even in high area form.

In contrast to the behavior of transition metal macrocycle complexes on carbon and graphite surfaces, the cobalt tetrasulfonated phthalocyanine (CoTsPc) does not adsorb strongly on the (Li)NiO oxide or other oxides such as tin-doped indium oxide (ITO). The  $\text{O}_2$  reduction in this system proceeds through a peroxide mechanism with the CoTsPc as a solution phase redox

mediator. Well defined solution phase redox couples of CoTsPc were found with ITO electrodes while some of these couples were not observed on the (Li)NiO due to the p-type semi-conductor character of the lithiated nickel oxide.

#### **4. Structural studies of adsorbed transition metal macrocycles complexes on graphite surfaces**

Electrochemical studies with *in situ* and *ex situ* STM and AFM have been carried out on highly ordered pyrolytic graphite surfaces (HOPG). Most of the features of HOPG at atomic level resolution are reasonably well explained theoretically and provide the background needed for understanding the imaging mechanisms. Artifacts encountered with the HOPG surfaces include the multiple tip effects, tip length effects, moiré patterns and thermal drifting. They complicate the interpretation of the STM and AFM results.

The Co- and Fe-tetrasulfonated phthalocyanines (TsPc) adsorbed on an HOPG surface were studied by cyclic voltammetry, AFM, and *in situ* STM. Based on a set of AFM topographies obtained in air for macrocycle molecules preadsorbed on HOPG at monolayer coverage, it is concluded that both the adsorbed Co- and FeTsPc molecules are skew to the surface in parallel planes with the metal cation of one plane coordinated to the nitrogen of the next plane. The tilt angles can be estimated from the molecular size and corrugation heights of the molecular features.

With macrocycle species in an H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> electrolyte solution saturated with air, *in situ* STM and AFM images provide evidence that the adsorbed macrocycle molecules are oriented parallel to the HOPG substrate. Different orientations observed with the *ex situ* AFM and also *in situ* STM and AFM measurements are explained on the basis of differences in the various specimen preparation procedures.

"Sheet-type" polymeric transition-metal phthalocyanines were synthesized and characterized by using traditional chemical methods, including FTIR spectroscopy, UV-visible spectroscopy, elemental analysis, ESCA and acid-base titrations. The structures of the p-CoPc and p-FePc obtained from these conventional measurements are in agreement with those obtained from the AFM measurements. The sheet-type polymers were predominantly in rectangular rather than linear arrays. In alkaline solution, both the polymer p-FePc and monomer FeTsPc were found to catalyze the 4-electron reduction of  $O_2$  to  $OH^-$  whereas the corresponding Co complexes catalyzed the 2-electron  $O_2$  reduction to the peroxide.

This research has demonstrated the power of STM and AFM in the study of electrocatalytic systems, especially the surface structures of electrodes and the orientation of adsorbed species on electrode surfaces. Such measurements are far from routine, however, because of the large number of artifacts that enter into the imaging.

### C. Continuing Research

While the ONR support of this project terminated on 30 September 1993, some of the research is being continued under a ARPA/ONR/URI project on methanol-air fuel cells in the Case Center for Electrochemical Sciences at Case Western Reserve University with Prof. Robert Savinell as director of the overall project and with Dr. Donald Tryk responsible for the air cathode and related catalyst research. Prof. Yeager is in an advisory capacity as an emeritus faculty member.

Some of the transition metal complexes are of special interest for the methanol air-cell application because they catalyze the 4-electron reduction of  $O_2$  and at the same time are not adversely affected by methanol or its oxidation products which diffuse from the anolyte into the



catholyte through polymer membrane electrolytes such as duPont Nafion 117 and Dow 560. These catalysts, however, are usually not stable for operation over even a few hours in concentrated acids. To achieve stability it has been necessary to partially pyrolyze these macrocycle catalysts on high area carbon supports. This treatment, however, interferes with the efforts to fine tune the redox properties of the porphyrins and its O<sub>2</sub> adducts for the 4-electron oxygen reduction process. The use of solid ionomer electrolytes such as Nafion stabilizes the macrocycles adsorbed on a graphite support and may make it possible to avoid the use of pyrolysis to stabilize these catalysts.

The sheet type polymer macrocycles are expected to be more strongly adsorbed on graphite than the corresponding monomers. The poly-iron phthalocyanine has been found to promote the 4-electron reduction of O<sub>2</sub> in alkaline electrolytes and we anticipate that other sheet type complexes will be found which are good catalysts for the 4-electron reduction.

We have recently found that the transition metal ions can be strongly adsorbed on the surface of some electronic conducting polymers such as heat-treated poly acrylonitrile. These layers are rather similar to the transition metal macrocycles and their behavior as O<sub>2</sub> reduction catalysts is promising.

## **II. Research Personnel Funded Through This Grant**

### **A. Principal Investigator**

1. Ernest B. Yeager, Hovorka Professor of Chemistry, Emeritus

### **B. Co-Principal Investigator**

2. B.D. Cahan, Research Scientist

**C. Graduate Students**

1. InTae Bae, Ph.D., CWRU, 1989  
Thesis: *In situ* Infrared Spectroscopic Studies of Electrocatalytic Systems
2. Rongrong Chen: Ph.D., CWRU, 1993  
Thesis: Applications of Scanning Probe Microscopy to Electrocatalytic Systems
3. Francis H. Feddrix: Ph.D., CWRU, 1989  
Thesis: The Electrochemical Oxidation of Methanol on Single Crystal Surfaces of Platinum
4. M. Hsiao, Ph.D., CWRU, 1990  
Thesis: Electrochemical Oxidation of Glucose in Single Crystal Surfaces of Gold
5. Haito Huang, Ph.D., CWRU, 1992  
Thesis: The Role of Adsorbed Species in Various Electrocatalytic Processes: Electrochemical and *In Situ* Infrared Spectroscopic Studies
6. S. Andrew Lin: Ph.D., CWRU, 1991  
Thesis: The Electrochemistry of Carbon Monoxide
7. Peter W. Faguy: Ph.D., CWRU, 1989  
Thesis: Applications of Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy to Electrochemical Systems
8. Jay Prakash, Ph.D., CWRU,  
Thesis: Oxygen Electrocatalysis on Ruthenium Metal and Its Pyrochlores
9. Zhiwei Zhang: Ph.D., CWRU, 1993  
Thesis: Oxygen Reduction on Lithiated Nickel Oxide as a Catalyst and as a Catalyst Support
10. Qingjuin Zhao: Ph.D., CWRU, 1993  
Thesis: The Electrocatalytic Oxidation of Small Organic Molecules on Platinum

**D. Postdoctoral Research Associates**

1. Z. Y. Zing: macrocycle catalysts
2. C. Wang: nickel oxides as catalyst and catalyst supports
3. K. Sashikata: O<sub>2</sub> electrocatalysis, FTIR

**E. Senior Research Associates**

1. Donald Tryk: O<sub>2</sub> electrocatalysis; transition metal oxides
2. S. Gupta: electrochemistry of transition metal complexes

**F. Visiting Scientist**

Radoslav Adzic, Director, Institute of Electrochemistry, Belgrade, Yugoslavia;  
now permanently at Brookhaven National Laboratory

**III. Publications, Presentations, Patents, Reports Based on ONR Research****A. Publications in Refereed Journals**

1. A.A. Tanaka, C. Fierro, D.A. Scherson and E. Yeager, "Oxygen Reduction on Adsorbed Iron Tetrapyridinoporphyrazine," *Materials Chemistry and Physics*, 22, 431-456 (1989).
2. R.R. Adzic, M.W. Hsiao and E.B. Yeager, "Electrochemical Oxidation of Glucose on Single Crystal Gold Surfaces," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, 260, 475-485 (1989).
3. I. T. Bae, X. Xing, D. Scherson and E.B. Yeager, "Ionic Transport Effects in *In situ* Fourier Transform Infrared Reflection Absorption Spectroscopy," *J. Anal. Chem.*, 61, 1164-1167 (1989).
4. S. Gupta, D. Tryk, I. Bae, W. Aldred and E. Yeager, "Heat Treated Polyacrylonitrile-Based Catalysts for Oxygen Electoreduction," *J. Applied Electrochem.* 19, 19-27 (1989).
5. I.T. Bae, X. Xing, C.C. Liu and E.B. Yeager, "*In-situ* Fourier Transform Infrared Reflection Absorption Spectroscopic Studies of Glucose Oxidation on Platinum in Acid," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, 284, 335-349 (199).
6. D. Chu, D. Tryk, D. Gervasio and E.B. Yeager, "Examination of the Ionomer/Electrode Interface Using the Ferric/Ferrous Redox Couple," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, 272, 277-284- (1989).
7. M.S. Hossain, D. Tryk and E. Yeager, "The Electrochemistry of Graphite and Modified Graphite Surfaces: The Reduction of O<sub>2</sub>," *Electrochim. Acta*, 34, 1733-1737 (1989).
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14. D. Aurbach, M. Daroux, P. Faguy and E. Yeager, "The Electrochemistry of Noble Metal Electrodes in Aprotic Organic Solvents Containing Lithium Salts," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **297**, 225-244 (1991).
15. H. Huang, C. Fierro, D. Scherson and E.B. Yeager, "*In Situ* Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopic Study of CO<sub>2</sub> Reduction on Polycrystalline Platinum in Acid Solutions," *Langmuir*, **7**, 1154-1157 (1991).
16. S. Gupta, C. Fierro and E. Yeager, "The Effects of Cyanide on the Electrochemical Properties of Transition Metal Macrocycles for Oxygen Reduction in Alkaline Solutions," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **306**, 239-250 (1991).
17. B. Cahan, M. Villullas and E. Yeager, "The Effects of Trace Anions on the Voltammetry of Single Crystal Gold Surfaces," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **306**, 213-238 (1991).
18. I.T. Bae, E. Yeager, X. Xing and C.C. Liu, "*In situ* Infrared Studies of Glucose Oxidation on Platinum in an Alkaline Medium," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **309**, 131-145 (1991).
19. I.T. Bae, H. Huang, E.b. Yeager, and D.A. Scherson, "*In Situ* Infrared Spectroscopic Studies of Redox Active Self-Assembled Monolayers on Gold Electrode Surfaces," *Langmuir*, **7**, 1558-1562 (1991).
20. Z.Y. Zeng, S.L. Gupta, H. Huang and E.B. Yeager, "Oxygen Reduction on Poly(4-vinylpyridine)-Modified Ordinary Pyrolytic Graphite Electrodes with Adsorbed Cobalt Tetra-sulphonated Phthalocyanine in Acid Solutions," *J. Appl. Electrochem.*, **21**, 973-981 (1991).

21. S. Gupta, H. Huang and E. Yeager, "Studies of Adsorption of Tetrasulfonated Phthalocyanines on Graphite Substrate," *Electrochim. Acta*, **36**, 2165-2169 (1991).
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25. R. Adzic, F. Feddrix, B.Z. Nikolic and E. Yeager, "The Elucidation of Hydrogen and Anion Adsorption on Pt(111) through the Co-Adsorption of Metal Adatoms and Carbon Monoxide," *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **34**, 287-306 (1992).
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**B. Publications in Non-Refereed Proceedings, Monographs, Etc.**

1. R.R. Adzic, D. Gervasio, I. Bae, B. Cahan, and E. Yeager, "Tritium Measurements and Deuterium Loading in D<sub>2</sub>O Electrolysis with a Palladium Cathode," *Proceedings of the First Annual Conference on Cold Fusion*, March 28-31, 1990, National Cold Fusion Institute, Salt Lake City, Utah, pp. 261-271.
2. E. Yeager, M. Razaq, D. Gervasio, A. Razaq and D. Tryk, *Proceedings of the Workshop on Structural Effects in Electrocatalysis and Oxygen Electrochemistry*, Cleveland, OH, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 1991, The Electrochemical Society, Vol. 92-11, pp. 440-473.
3. J. Prakash, D. Tryk, W. Aldred and E. Yeager, "Transition-Metal Oxide Electrocatalysts for O<sub>2</sub> Electrodes: The Pyrochlores," in *Electrochemistry in Transition*, O.J. Murphy, S. Srinivasan and B.E. Conway, eds., Plenum Press, New York, 1992, pp. 93-106.
4. Daniel A. Scherson and Ernest B. Yeager, "Applications of Spectroscopic Techniques to the *In situ* Study of Electrochemical Interfaces," Chapter 7, *Physical Methods of Chemistry*, 2nd ed., Vol. IXB, Bryant W. Rossiter and Roger C. Baetzold, editors, J. Wiley and Sons, New York, 1993.

**C. Patents: None**

#### **D. Invited Presentations at Conferences, National and International Meetings**

1. E. Yeager, J. Prakash, D. Tryk and W. Aldred, "Transition Metal Oxide Electrocatalysts for O<sub>2</sub> Electrodes: The Pyrochlores," The Third Chemical Congress of North America, June 5-10, 1988, Toronto, Canada.
2. E. Yeager, "*In-situ* Optical Studies of Electrocatalysis," The 40th Meeting of the International Society of Electrochemistry, Kyoto, Japan, September 17-22, 1989.
3. E. Yeager, B.z. Nikolic, H. Huang, D. Gervasio, A. Lin, C. Fierro and R.R. Adzic, "Effect of the Crystallographic Orientation of Pt on CO<sub>2</sub> Electroreduction: Electrochemical and *in situ* IR Studies," The Electrochemical Society National Meeting, Washington, DC, May 5-10, 1991, Extended Abst. 91-1, 690.
4. E. Yeager, "Opportunities for O<sub>2</sub> Cathodes in Batteries, Fuel Cells and Industrial Electrolytic Processes," Vittorio de Nora Award Address at the 181st National Meeting of the Electrochemical Society, Inc., St. Louis, Missouri, May 17-22, 1992.
5. E. Yeager, M. Razaq, D. Gervasio, A. Razaq and D. Tryk, "The Electrolyte Factor in O<sub>2</sub> Reduction Electrocatalysis," Proceedings of the Workshop on Structural Effects in Electrocatalysis and Oxygen Electrochemistry, Case Western Reserve University, Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 1991. The Electrochemical Society, Inc., Pennington, NJ, pp. 440-473.

#### **E. Contributed Presentations and Papers at Scientific Meetings and Workshops**

1. R.R. Adzic, F. Feddrix and E. Yeager, "The Elucidation of Hydrogen and Anion Adsorption on Pt(111) Through the Co-Adsorption of Metal Adatoms and CO," The Electrochemical Society, National Meeting, Hollywood, Florida, Oct. 15-20, 1988, Extended Abst., 89-2, 662.
2. S. Gupta and E. Yeager, "The Effects of Cyanide on the Redox Behavior and Electrocatalytic Properties of Transition Metal Macrocycles for Oxygen Reduction in Alkaline Solutions," loc. cit. Extended Abst., 98-2, 665.
3. I.T. Bae, D.A. Scherson and E.B. Yeager, "Infrared Spectroscopic Determination of pH Changes in Diffusionally Decoupled Thin Layer Electrochemical Cells," loc. cit., Extended Abst., 89-2, 676.
4. H.W. Hsiao, R.R. Adzic, D. Gervasio and E.B. Yeager, "Studies of Glucose Electrooxidation on Gold Surfaces in Phosphate Buffer Using Ex-Situ NMR Spectroscopy," The Electrochemical Society, National Meeting, Montreal, May 6-11, 1990, Extended Abst., 90-1, 661.
5. K. Kanamura, A. Tanaka, D. Gervasio R. Adzic and E.B. Yeager, "Hydrogen Electrosorption on Single Crystal Platinum Surfaces in Aqueous Phosphoric Acid Solutions," loc. cit., Extended Abst., 90-1, 664.

6. A. Tanaka, K. Kanamura, R. Adzic, B. Cahan and E. Yeager, "Oxygen Reduction on Single Crystal Platinum Electrodes," loc. cit., Extended Abst., 90-1, 667.
7. A. Lin, K. Kanamura, R. Adzic and E. B. Yeager, "Electrooxidation of Carbon Monoxide on Single Crystal Platinum Surface in Aqueous," loc. cit., Extended Abst., 90-1, 668.
8. I.T. Bae, F. Feddrix, and E.B. Yeager, "Methanol Oxidation on Platinum Single Crystals of (111), (110), and (100) Faces: *In situ* Infrared Spectroscopic Study," loc. cit., Extended Abst., 90-1, 799.
9. X. Xing and C.C. Liu, "*In Situ* Infrared Studies of Glucose Oxidation on Platinum in an Alkaline Medium," loc. cit. Extended Abst., 90-1, 800.
10. S. Gupta, H. Huang and E. Yeager, "Studies of the Adsorption of Tetrasulfonated Phthalocyanines on Graphite," The Electrochemical Society National Meeting, Seattle, WA, Oct. 14-19, 1990, Extended Abst., 90-2, 64.
11. Z.Y. Zeng, S.L. Gupta, H. Huang and E.B. Yeager, "Oxygen Reduction on Poly(4-Vinylpyridine)-Modified Ordinary Pyrolytic Graphite Electrodes with Adsorbed Cobalt Tetrasulfonated Phthalocyanine in Acid Solutions," loc. cit., Extended Abst. 90-2, 65.
12. M.W. Hsiao, R.R. Adzic and E.B. Yeager, "The Effects of Anions on the Electrochemical Oxidation of D-Glucose on Gold Single Crystal Electrodes," loc. cit., Extended Abst., 90-2, 714.
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14. B.Z. Nikolic, H. Huang, D. Gervasio, A. Lin, C. Fierro, R.R. Adzic and E. Yeager, "Effect of the Crystallographic Orientation of Pt on CO<sub>2</sub> Electroreduction: Electrochemical and *in situ* IR Studies," The Electrochemical Society National Meeting, Washington, DC, May 5-10, 1991, Extended Abst., 91-1, 690.
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**F. Technical Reports**

1. Technical Report 67, P.W. Faguy, N. Markovic, R.R. Adzic, C. Fierro and E. Yeager, "A Study of Bisulfate Adsorption on Pt(111) Single Crystal Electrodes Using in-situ Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy," J. Electroanal. Chem.
2. Technical Report 68, B.D. Cahan, H.M. Villullas and E. Yeager, "The Effects of Trace Anions on the Voltammetry of Single Crystal Gold Surfaces," J. Electroanal. Chem.
3. Technical Report 69, D. Aurbach, M. Daroux, P. Faguy and E. Yeager, "The Electrochemistry of Noble Metal Electrodes in Aprotic Organic Solvents Containing Lithium Salts," J. Electroanal. Chem.
4. Technical Report 70, S. Gupta and E. Yeager, "The Effects of Cyanide on the Electrochemical Properties of Transition Metal Macrocycles for Oxygen Reduction in Alkaline Solutions," J. Electroanal. Chem.
5. Technical Report 71, I.T. Bae, H. Huang, E.B. Yeager and D.A. Scherson, "In-Situ Spectroscopic Studies of Redox Active Self-Assembled Monolayers on Metal Electrode Surfaces," Langmuir.
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11. Technical Report 77, I. Bae, X. Xing, C.C. Liu and E. Yeager, "In-situ Fourier Transform Infrared Reflection Absorption Spectroscopic Studies of Glucose Oxidation on Platinum in Acid," J. Appl. Electroanal.
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26. Technical Report 92, F.H. Feddrix, E.B. Yeager and B.D. Cahan, "Low Energy Electron Diffraction and Cyclic Voltammetry Studies of Flame-Annealed Platinum Single Crystals," J. Electroanal. Chem.
27. Technical Report 93, E.B. Yeager, M. Razaq, D. Gervasio, A. Razaq and D. Tryk, "Dioxygen Reduction in Various Acid Electrolytes," J. Serb. Chem. Soc.
28. Technical Report 94, E. Yeager, M. Razaq, D. Gervasio, A. Razaq and D. Tryk, "The Electrolyte Factor in O<sub>2</sub> Reduction Electrocatalysis," Proceedings of the Workshop on Structural Effects in Electrocatalysis and Oxygen Electrochemistry, Cleveland, Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, 1991. The Electrochemical Society, Vol. 92-11, pp. 440-473.
29. Technical Report 95, J. Prakash, D. Tryk, W. Aldred and E. Yeager, "Transition-Metal Oxide Electrocatalysts for O<sub>2</sub> Electrodes: The Pyrochlores," Electrochemistry in Transition, O.J. Murphy, S. Srinivasan and B.E. Conway, eds., Plenum Press, New York, 1992, pp. 93-106.

#### IV. Transitions: Interactions or Association with Industrial and Government Efforts

##### 1. DOE, subcontract through the Electrosynthesis Corporation (SBIO)

Grant/Project Title: Modified Carbon Supports for Electrocatalysts  
 Amount of Funding: \$180,000  
 Total Period: 9/14/90 - 9/13/92  
 Research: The Electrosynthesis Corp. partially fluorinated high area carbon supports for O<sub>2</sub> electrocatalysts with the principal objective of stabilizing the carbon support against oxidation and thus extending the operating life for metal-air batteries and various fuel cells. The Electrosynthesis Corp. partially fluorinated the carbons and the CWRU group then fabricated them into gas-fed O<sub>2</sub> cathodes using its experience gained on the ONR sponsored research with gas-fed high current density air

cathodes. The performance, however, was only marginally better.

2. Eveready Battery Company

Grant/Project Title: Water Management in Zinc-Air Cells  
Amount of Funding: \$100,000  
Total Period: 9/30/92-9/29/93 (Further funding is pending)  
Research: A study of factors controlling water gain and loss in small consumer type zinc air cells was carried out at CWRU in collaboration with the Eveready Westlake Laboratory. It appears possible to stabilize such cells against water gain or loss in high and low humidity environments using anion conducting solid polymers as the electrolytes. This cooperative project utilizes experience gained in ONR supported work on O<sub>2</sub> electrodes and polymer electrolytes. If as successful as we expect, this project should result in much more extensive use of zinc air cells. Present miniature cells are limited to a few weeks of use after the seals are removed because of water or loss.

3. ARPA-ONR Project

Grant/Project Title: Methanol-Air Fuel Cells  
Amount of Funding: ~\$600,000  
Total Period: 7/1/92-6/3-/95  
Research: Research is in progress on air cathodes for use with new polymer electrolytes operating at temperatures of up to 200°C. Our group is concerned with more active catalysts which are not poisoned or otherwise adversely effected by methanol and its oxidation by products which diffuse from the anolyte into the catholyte through the membrane electrolytes. Various transition metal complexes including the macrocycles are very promising provided their structure can be adequately stabilized as adsorbed layers using solid ionomers as electrolytes with species added to suppress the metal cation solubility.

#### 4. Case Sensor Center/National Institute of Health

Grant/Project Title: Electrochemical Sensors for L-dopa  
 Amount of Funding: \$10,700  
 Total Period: 9/30/91-9/29/92  
 Research: Preliminary work was initiated to establish the feasibility of continuously monitoring the level of the L-dopa and other neurotransmitters in the blood and tissue using electrochemical methods. The levels in the brain, however, do not correlate well with the blood levels because of large variations in the permeability of the blood-brain barrier to L-dopa and the major effect of blood proteins on the permeability to L-dopa. Introduction of electrodes in the brain is already being carried out with animals but is not practical with humans. This project has been discontinued for the time being.

#### V. Three Significant Publications

1. "Low Energy Electron Diffraction and Cyclic Voltammetry Studies of Flame Annealed Platinum Single Crystals," F.H. Feddrix, E.B. Yeager and B.D. Cahan, *J. Electroanal.Chem.*, 330, (1992) 419-431.

The objective of the research described in this publication was to establish the validity of the Clavilier flame annealing method for preparing platinum single crystal electrode surfaces. A large number of electrochemists have used the Clavilier method in place of the much more tedious and demanding ultra high vacuum-electrolytic solution transfer. With the exception of the work of Fauri, quoted but not published by Aberdam *et al.*, the validity of the Clavilier method has not been examined with low energy electron diffraction.

In this paper, LEED and cyclic linear sweep voltammetry were used to examine the surface structure of flame annealed Pt (100, (110) and (111) electrodes. Well defined LEED

patterns were obtained for these surfaces but only after additional heat treatment *in vacuo* at 400°C in order to remove surface contaminants. The cyclic voltammograms corresponded to those expected for the low index Pt surfaces from prior studies in our laboratory.

2. "A Study of Bisulfate Adsorption on Pt(111) Single Crystal Electrodes Using *In situ* Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy," P.W. Faguy, N. Markovic, R.R. Adzic, C.A. Fierro and E.B. Yeager, *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **289**, (1990), 245-262.

Subtractively normalized interfacial Fourier transform spectroscopy (SNIFTIRS) has yielded the first spectroscopic evidence that  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  anion adsorption is associated with the anomalous peaks seen in the cyclic voltammetry of Pt(111) in sulfuric acid. The infrared data indicate that the beginning of bisulfate anion adsorption coincides with the onset of the anomalous peak region on Pt(111). There is no evidence of  $\text{SO}_4^-$  adsorption over the same potential region. The adsorbed  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  absorption peak frequency is strongly potential dependent. This increase in peak infrared frequency with increasing potential can be rationalized using molecular orbital arguments. While the high boiling point, stabilization and good conductivity of concentrated sulfuric acid are attractive from the standpoint of fuel cell applications, the strong adsorption of the bisulfate anion inhibits the oxidation of organic species such as methanol in this acid and has provided the motivation to look for new electrolytes including polymer electrolytes.

3. "The Elucidation of Hydrogen and Anion Adsorption on Pt(111) through the Co-Adsorption of Metal Adatoms and Carbon Monoxide," R.R. Adzic, F. Feddrix, B.Z. Nikolic and E. Yeager, *J. Electroanal. Chem.*, **341**, (1992) 287-306

Copper, lead and carbon monoxide adsorbates have been used to probe the adsorption processes on a Pt(111) electrode in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{HClO}_4$  solutions. All three adsorbates cause inhibition of hydrogen adsorption in both solutions and a decrease of the anomalous peak recently ascribed to

$\text{HSO}_4^-$  adsorption. The “butterfly” peak in  $\text{HClO}_4$  solution is slightly perturbed by Cu and Pb adatoms. Evidence was found that the species responsible for the anomalous peak for Pt(111) in  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$  solutions is not  $\text{H}_{\text{ads}}$  and that  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  probably interacts with three Pt(111) sites. A twofold interaction of  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  with the Pt(111) surface, however, cannot be ruled out completely. In  $\text{HClO}_4$  solutions the Cu and Pb adatoms do not cause any decrease of the charge associated with the “butterfly” peak. These results can be explained in terms of PtOH as the species involved with the “butterfly” peak. The electrosorption valence of  $\text{HSO}_{\text{ads}}$  is unity, which indicates a strong interaction with the surface and a high charge transfer. The Temkin interaction parameter for  $\text{H}_{\text{ads}}$  is  $fRT = 42 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$ , which provides evidence for a large repulsive interaction of  $\text{H}_{\text{ads}}$  on the Pt(111) surface. It decreases in the presence of Cu and CO adsorbates. These results illustrate the usefulness of the competitive adsorption of various adsorbates in probing adsorption processes on electrode surfaces.

## VI. Awards and Honors

### 1. The Vittorio de Nora Award, The Electrochemical Society, May 1992

- Awarded biannually for contributions to electrochemical engineering and technology
- Award includes a gold medal and \$5,000
- Award address: The Electrochemistry of Molecular Oxygen: Mechanistic and Catalytic Aspects

In the award address, Professor Yeager focused on the challenging problem of finding stable catalysts for the overall 4-electron reduction of  $\text{O}_2$  in aqueous solutions at low and moderate temperatures. Many catalysts are available for the 2-electron reduction to the peroxide

state. Such peroxide forming catalysts can be used in conjunction with a peroxide decomposition catalyst to achieve the overall 4-electron reduction. This pathway, however, leads to excessive polarization. Consequently catalysts promoting the direct 4-electron reduction are preferred to achieve high operating potentials. The lecture reviews the factors that must be considered in developing 4-electron reduction catalysts. Several 4-electron reduction catalyst are considered from the standpoint of reaction mechanisms and factors controlling the operating potential of the  $O_2$  cathode; these include platinum, transition metal macrocycle complexes and the pyrochlores. The lecture also considered how electrolyte factors influence catalytic activity (including the use of solid ionomers and self-assembling layers on the electrode surface).

## 2. The renaming of the Case Center for Electrochemical Sciences as the

Ernest B. Yeager Center for Electrochemical Sciences in honor of its founder.

- The renaming will be combined with a one-day symposium on electrochemistry to be held on September 22, 1994 with Prof. R. Marcus, Prof. Gabor Somorjai and W. John Albery.

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